

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as shown below.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 11, and continuing on page 2, with the following amended paragraph:

Recent years have witnessed the wide diffusion of the imaging devices, such as digital still cameras, which are equipped with a solid-state imaging element. Digital still cameras are required to have an improved image quality as they become popular more than before. Particularly, those digital still cameras equipped with a solid-state imaging element having a large number of pixels need an imaging lens, especially a zoom lens, with good image-forming performance. They are also required to be small in size, and hence there is a strong demand for a small-size high-performance zoom lens. (See Japanese Patent No. 2750775 [Patent document 1]) On the other hand, attempts are being made to reduce the size of the zoom lens in the direction of an optical axis by bending the optical system with a prism inserted between lenses. (See Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 248318-1996 [Patent document 2])